

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of claims:

1-23. (Canceled)

24. (Currently Amended) A fuel cell assembly comprising:

a plurality of multi-cell modules disposed in series and in a stacking direction;

an external member, and

an external restrainer member provided along the external member in the stacking direction,

wherein [[the]]each multi-cell module of the plurality of multi-cell modules has, a multi-cell assembly formed by stacking a plurality of cells, and a module frame having a first wall that surrounds the multi-cell assembly and that extends in [[a]]the cell stacking direction of the multi-cell assembly,

wherein the external member extends outside the plurality of multi-cell modules and in the cell stacking direction along the multi-cell modules, and

wherein the external restrainer member is provided between an internal surface of the external member and an external surface of the first wall of the module frame of the multi-cell module, and contacts the internal surface of the external member and the external surface of the first wall.

25. (Currently Amended) The fuel cell assembly according to claim 24, wherein in [[the]]each multi-cell module, the multi-cell assembly of [[the]]each multi-cell module is left unrestrained in the cell stacking direction by the module frame of [[the]]each multi-cell module so as to relieve thermal expansion of a cell in the cell stacking direction.

26. (Currently Amended) The fuel cell assembly according to claim 24, wherein in [[the]]each multi-cell module, cells of the multi-cell assembly are adhered to one another.

27. (Currently Amended) The fuel cell assembly according to claim 24, wherein in ~~[[the]]~~each multi-cell module, a space is formed or a deformable adhesive member is provided between an external surface of the multi-cell assembly of the multi-cell module and ~~[[an]]~~the internal surface of the first wall of the module frame of ~~[[the]]~~each multi-cell module so as to relieve thermal expansion of a cell in a direction perpendicular to the cell stacking direction.

28. (Previously Presented) The fuel cell assembly according to claim 24, wherein the plurality of multi-cell modules are disposed in series in the cell stacking direction, and a spring box is disposed in series in the cell stacking direction with respect to the plurality of multi-cell modules disposed in series, and a spring force of the spring box is applied to the plurality of multi-cell modules in the cell stacking direction.

29. (Previously Presented) The fuel cell assembly according to claim 24, wherein the module frame has a second wall that extends in a direction perpendicular to the cell stacking direction, in addition to the first wall.

30. (Previously Presented) The fuel cell assembly according to claim 29, wherein a coolant passage is formed in the second wall.

31. (Previously Presented) The fuel cell assembly according to claim 30, wherein a contact surface of the second wall which contacts a cell is formed of an electrically conductive material.

32. (Previously Presented) The fuel cell assembly according to claim 29, wherein at least a portion of a contact surface of the second wall which contacts a cell is formed so as to be displaceable in the cell stacking direction.

33. (Previously Presented) The fuel cell assembly according to claim 32, wherein a coolant passage is formed in the second wall, and a portion of the second wall which is displaceable in the cell stacking direction is displaced by a pressure of the coolant passage.

34. (Currently Amended) The fuel cell assembly according to claim 24, wherein an external surface of ~~[[the]]~~each module frame and an internal surface of the external member contact each other in a point contact fashion.
35. (Currently Amended) The fuel cell assembly according to claim 24, wherein ~~[[the]]~~each module frame is provided with an opening for mounting, on the multi-cell assembly, a member that electrically connects the multi-cell assembly to an external device.
36. (Currently Amended) The fuel cell assembly according to claim 24, wherein ~~[[the]]~~each module frame includes at least two frame members that are separate from each other.
37. (Currently Amended) The fuel cell assembly according to claim 24, wherein an internal surface of ~~[[the]]~~each module frame has a groove for an adhesive.
38. (Currently Amended) The fuel cell assembly according to claim 24, wherein ~~[[the]]~~each module frame is provided with a cell monitor presser that extends from the module frame toward an external surface of ~~[[the]]~~a cell monitor, wherein the cell monitor presser is located near the cell monitor.
39. (Currently Amended) The fuel cell assembly according to claim 24, wherein at least a portion of ~~[[the]]~~each module frame is formed of a non-electrically conductive material.
40. (Currently Amended) The fuel cell assembly according to claim 24, wherein frame members that constitute ~~[[the]]~~each module frame made of a resin are disposed at four corner sites of an end cell of a multi-cell assembly of the multi-cell module.
41. (Currently Amended) The fuel cell assembly according to claim 24, wherein ~~[[the]]~~each module frame is formed of an elastic member.
42. (Previously Presented) The fuel cell assembly according to claim 41, wherein a friction coefficient of a surface of the elastic member is smaller than a friction coefficient of the elastic

member itself.

43. (Currently Amended) The fuel cell assembly according to claim 41, wherein ~~[[the]]~~each module frame is connected to an end cell of ~~[[a]]~~the multi-cell assembly of ~~[the]]~~each multi-cell module.

44. (Currently Amended) The fuel cell assembly according to claim 41, wherein a wire is embedded in ~~[[the]]~~each module frame.

45. (Previously Presented) The fuel cell assembly according to claim 24, wherein the external restrainer member is formed of a deformable material applicable to deform in a direction perpendicular to the cell stacking direction.

46. (Previously Presented) The fuel cell assembly according to claim 24, wherein the external member is a casing, and wherein the external member also serves as a tension plate.

47. (New) The fuel cell assembly according to claim 24, wherein adjacent multi-cell modules are away from each other, and the module frame is provided over a portion of one multi-cell module and a portion of an adjacent multi-cell module.

48. (New) The fuel cell assembly according to claim 24, wherein a space is provided between the module frames.

49. (New) The fuel cell assembly according to claim 48, wherein adjacent first walls are away from each other

50. (New) The fuel cell assembly according to claim 41, further comprising a member which is disposed on a surface of the elastic member and has a friction coefficient that is smaller than that of the elastic member.